

REMARKS

Claims 21-41 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-20 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein and new claims 21-41 are added. No new matter has been added. Applicant appreciates the courtesies shown to Applicant's representative by Examiner Lam during the December 20 telephone interview. Applicant's separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

I. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Sanford (U.S. Patent No. 6,734,636). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Claims 1-20 have been canceled, and thus the rejection with respect to these claims are now moot. However, since Applicant believes that the rejection based on Sanford is applicable to newly added claims 21-41, the following remarks are made.

Sanford does not disclose or suggest a plurality of power source lines extending along a direction in which a plurality of first signal lines extend, as recited in independent claim 1. Further, Sanford does not disclose or suggest a group of circuits that are disposed along one first signal line of the plurality first signal lines and one power source line of the plurality of power source lines, as recited in independent claim 35.

Sanford instead discloses in Figs. 2 and 3 that the power source lines extend along a direction in which the data lines extend. On the contrary, claim 21 recites a plurality of power source lines extending along a direction in which a plurality of first signal lines extend. Claim 35 recites a group of circuits that are disposed along one first signal line of the plurality first signal lines and one power source line of the plurality of power source lines.

Accordingly, Sanford does not disclose or suggest the features of independent claims 21 and 35. Therefore, independent claims 21 and 35 define patentable subject matter. Claims 22-34

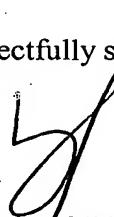
and 36-41 depend on the respective independent claims, and therefore also define patentable subject matter. Thus, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) is respectfully requested.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 21-41 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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